Implementation of land reforms

1412. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report which appeared in the Statesman of February 2, 1990 under the caption "Facts betray Figures" regarding land reforms;

(b) if so, what progress has so far been made in each State and Union Territories relating to land reforms implementation, especially regarding the extent of surplus land identified, declared surplus and that distributed amongst the landless farmers; and

(c) to what extent the above facts differ from the official figures as reported in the press?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) No such news report has appeared in Statesman dated 2nd February, 1990. However, such a report appeared in Financial Express dated 2nd February, 1990.

(b) As only the progress of distribution of ceiling land is monitored by the Central Government, a statement of area declared surplus and distributed is attached. (See Appendix CEIII, Annexure No. 62)

(c) The estimates made in various National Surveys about likely availability of surplus ceiling land widely vary i.e. from 4.80 million hectares (as per National Sample Survey 26th round, 1971-72) to 12,10 million hectares (as per Agriculture Cencus, 1970-71) as against 7.25 million acres declared surplus (upto September, 1989).

Increase in the prices of edible oils and vanaspati

1413. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of various edible oils and vanaspati increased during December, 1989, January and February, 1990;

(b) if so, the extent of increase registered in respect of average wholesale and retail prices of each oil and vanaspati; and

(c) the steps taken to keep the prices under control?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) The increase has taken place in January and February, 1990.

(b) The percentage increase/decrease (—) from the previous month of the average wholesale/retail prices of major traditional oils and vanaspati are as under:—

Wholesale prices

	Dec. 89	Jan. 90	Feb. 90
Groundnut Oil	(—)7.0 to (—)0.5	5.0 to 9.0	4.0 to 9.0
Mustard Oil	(—)3.0 to (—)6.0	3.0 to 4.0	(—)0.2 to 1.5
Sesame Oil	Nil to 1.0	19.0 to 20.0	22.0 to 23.0
Vanaspati	(—)9.0 to (—)2.0	(—)1.0 to 1.0	4.6 to 6.0